

The 100 Best Jobs

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All jobs aren't created equal. In fact, some are simply better than the rest. U.S. News 100 Best Jobs of 2014 offer a mosaic of employment opportunity, good salary, manageable work-life balance and job security. Some careers offer just the right mix of these components – for instance, nearly 40 percent of our picks are health care jobs – but the list also includes strong showings from occupations in the social services and business sectors. And for the first time, our No. 1 pick is a technology job. Read more on how we rank the best jobs, and check out our complete list.

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#1

Software Developer

(8.4 out of 10)

These professionals are the brains behind your Candy Crush obsession and Android phone dependency. They might be applications developers, who design computer software, databases and games, or they could be systems-focused developers, who are responsible for building operating systems. Growth for both types of IT professionals should balloon: The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts there will be nearly 140,000 brand new positions created before 2022.

#2

Computer Systems Analyst

(8.2 out of 10)

To excel in this job, you need to be both goal-focused and process-oriented. Computer systems analysts must understand computer hardware, software and networks and how they work together, so they can make recommendations to organizations for the best operations systems to use. The BLS predicts 24.5 percent employment growth for this job by 2022.

#3

Dentist

(8.2 out of 10)

As Dr. Seuss once wrote, "Teeth are always in style." Dentists surely think so. They make their living diagnosing and treating our teeth and gums, and counseling us on how to maintain good oral health. This profession is expected to add 23,300 new jobs up to the year 2022.

#4

Nurse Practitioner

(8.1 out of 10)

It's a nurse practitioner's array of capabilities, coupled with the fact they can work independently of physicians when treating patients, that makes our No. 2 Health Care Job an attractive career choice. The BLS predicts 37,100 new positions for these professionals between 2012 and 2022.

#5

Pharmacist

(8.1 out of 10)

Pharmacists mix technical, organizational and people skills in a customer service environment. Each day, more than 281,560 pharmacists dispense medicine and advice to patients at hospitals and retail chains. The profession is expected to grow 14.5 percent by 2022.

#6

Registered Nurse

(8.0 out of 10)

Nursing is an indispensable profession in health care; one where workers are almost always needed. This year is no different, as the BLS anticipates 19.4 percent employment growth in this field between 2012 and 2022.

#7

Physical Therapist

(7.9 out of 10)

A physical therapist's job description might include helping a paralytic regain mobility or a cancer survivor renew his or her strength. The profession is expected to grow 36 percent by 2022.

#8

Physician

(7.8 out of 10)

Physicians are at the top of the health care food chain – it's their responsibility to diagnose and treat patients, and instruct on proper diet, hygiene and disease prevention. Like other jobs in this industry, physicians will see abundant job growth. The BLS forecasts 123,300 new job openings for physicians from 2012 to 2022.

#9

Web Developer

(7.8 out of 10)

Web developers are responsible for the sleek fonts and clean layout you love on your favorite websites. The BLS considers this one of the fastest-growing jobs this decade and predicts employment should swell at a rate of about 20 percent by 2022.

#10

Dental Hygienist

(7.7 out of 10)

In addition to cleaning teeth, dental hygienists educate patients on proper oral hygiene. Something else of note: They make yearly salaries of about \$70,700, although most work part time. Expect 33.3 percent employment growth for this field from 2012 to 2022.

Adapted from: <http://money.usnews.com/careers/best-jobs/rankings/the-100-best-jobs>